

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

New York Office

Internet Address: <http://www.bls.gov/ro2/home.htm>

Information: Martin Kohli, (212) 337-2420

Media Contact: Michael L. Dolfman, (212) 337-2500

Fax-On-Demand: (212) 337-2412

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Friday, March 21, 2003

## **NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CPI UP 0.8 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY; UP 3.3 PERCENT OVER THE YEAR**

Retail prices in the greater New York area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.8 percent in February, matching the rise for January. These were the two largest monthly increases since February 1994. Michael L. Dolfman, Regional Commissioner of the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, said that much of the February rise was due to sharp increases for energy and food. Apparel prices were also up in February. For the year ended February 2003, the CPI-U rose 3.3 percent and core inflation, as measured by the all items less food and energy index, was up 2.3 percent.

The energy index increased sharply by 5.4 percent in February, the largest one-month increase since a 7.4-percent increase in February 2000. The February rise followed a 2.6-percent gain in January. Gasoline prices were up 6.5 percent in February, following a 2.3-percent rise in the prior month. Dolfman noted that gasoline prices are now 40.4 percent higher than a year ago but remain 6.6 percent below their peak in June 2001. Residential fuel oil prices were also up sharply for the second consecutive month. Electricity charges increased 3.3 percent in February and natural gas rose by 2.0 percent.

The food and beverages index rose 1.8 percent in February, the sharpest one-month increase since a 2.4-percent rise in January 1990. Grocery store food prices rose by 2.0 percent in February, with increases registered for beef, veal, ham, and pork chops, while food away from home increased 1.7 percent. Alcoholic beverages were little changed over the month.

The housing index rose 0.4 percent in February, with the sharp increases for fuels and utilities accounting for much of the rise. The household furnishings and operations component was up by 0.3 percent. The shelter index was unchanged in February, as increases of 0.3 percent for both residential rent and owners' equivalent rent were offset by declines for out-of-town lodging charges.

The transportation index increased 1.0 percent in February. This increase largely reflected a 1.2-percent gain for private transportation due to the increase in gasoline prices.



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the **Consumer Price Index** and a variety of other **Bureau of Labor Statistics** data are available by dialing the **New York Information Office's** main telephone number: **(212) 337-2400**. For recorded messages, press '2.' Press '1' for 24-hour Fax-on-Demand service.

## New York-Northern New Jersey CPI monthly and annual percent changes

(not seasonally adjusted)

Month	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.1	1.8	0.2	1.7	0.4	2.5	0.4	3.1	0.6	1.9	0.8	3.3
February	0.3	1.5	0.1	1.4	0.7	3.1	0.2	2.7	0.7	2.5	0.8	3.3
March	0.2	1.3	0.2	1.4	0.6	3.4	0.6	2.7	0.6	2.5		
April	0.0	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.1	3.1	0.1	2.9	0.4	2.8		
May	0.0	1.8	0.1	1.8	0.0	3.0	0.4	3.3	-0.2	2.2		
June	0.1	1.6	0.4	2.1	0.3	2.9	0.5	3.5	0.1	1.7		
July	0.3	1.6	0.2	2.1	0.4	3.2	-0.3	2.7	0.3	2.2		
August	0.3	2.0	0.2	2.0	0.2	3.1	0.2	2.7	0.6	2.7		
September	0.1	1.6	0.3	2.2	0.7	3.5	-0.1	2.0	0.1	2.8		
October	0.2	1.5	0.4	2.3	0.1	3.2	-0.1	1.7	0.2	3.1		
November	-0.1	1.6	-0.1	2.3	0.0	3.2	0.0	1.7	-0.2	3.0		
December	0.0	1.6	-0.1	2.2	-0.2	3.1	-0.3	1.7	-0.2	3.1		

The apparel index, often up in February with the introduction of new spring lines, rose 2.9 percent. The February increase followed decreases in the past four months. Over the year, apparel is down 6.4 percent.

Among other major components, the recreation index rose 0.9 percent in February, in part reflecting increases for admissions and club membership dues. The education and communication, medical care, and other goods and services indexes were little changed over the month.

With the New York-Northern New Jersey Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers at 196.2 in February (1982-84=100), \$19.62 was required to purchase what \$10 could in the 1982-84 base period. The purchasing power of the dollar was 51.0 cents in 1982-84 dollars and 17.6 cents in 1967 dollars.

In February, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 191.3, up 0.8 percent over the month and up 3.6 percent over the year. On a 1967 base, the February CPI-W was 544.7.

Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month to month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences. The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA consolidated area comprises the five boroughs of New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Orange Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, New Haven and Middlesex Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods**  
**New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Feb. 2002	Dec. 2002	Jan. 2003
<b><u>Expenditure category</u></b>						
All items .....	193.1	194.7	196.2	3.3	1.6	0.8
All items (1967=100) .....	558.3	562.7	567.1	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	181.6	180.7	183.9	2.3	1.3	1.8
Food .....	180.3	179.3	182.7	2.2	1.3	1.9
Food at home .....	178.6	178.6	182.2	2.3	2.0	2.0
Food away from home .....	187.5	185.1	188.2	2.1	.4	1.7
Alcoholic beverages .....	196.4	198.3	198.5	3.0	1.1	.1
Housing .....	200.8	204.6	205.4	3.9	2.3	.4
Shelter .....	241.5	246.4	246.4	3.8	2.0	.0
Rent of primary residence <u>1</u> /.....	227.8	229.0	229.6	4.6	.8	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <u>1</u> / <u>2</u> / .....	254.6	256.2	257.0	4.9	.9	.3
Fuels and utilities .....	124.5	127.7	132.8	11.8	6.7	4.0
Fuels .....	121.9	125.4	131.1	13.1	7.5	4.5
Gas (piped) and electricity <u>1</u> /.....	127.5	129.4	133.0	8.3	4.3	2.8
Electricity <u>1</u> /.....	116.6	115.9	119.7	6.0	2.7	3.3
Utility natural gas service <u>1</u> /.....	147.6	154.5	157.6	11.9	6.8	2.0
Household furnishings and operations .....	130.3	130.8	131.2	-1.0	.7	.3
Apparel .....	109.5	107.2	110.3	-6.4	.7	2.9
Transportation .....	163.0	163.4	165.1	5.8	1.3	1.0
Private transportation .....	155.7	156.3	158.1	7.2	1.5	1.2
Motor fuel .....	117.7	120.4	128.3	40.4	9.0	6.6
Gasoline (all types) .....	117.3	120.0	127.8	40.4	9.0	6.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular <u>3</u> /.....	118.2	120.8	128.9	43.4	9.1	6.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <u>3</u> / <u>4</u> /.....	117.9	120.8	128.3	38.6	8.8	6.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium <u>3</u> /.....	117.9	120.0	127.6	36.8	8.2	6.3
Medical care .....	303.6	305.4	305.0	2.9	.5	-.1
Recreation <u>5</u> /.....	110.1	110.3	111.3	1.9	1.1	.9
Education and communication <u>5</u> /.....	111.1	111.4	111.5	3.4	.4	.1
Other goods and services .....	307.4	309.3	309.7	6.1	.7	.1
<b><u>Commodity and service group</u></b>						
All items .....	193.1	194.7	196.2	3.3	1.6	0.8
Commodities .....	153.6	153.4	156.0	2.7	1.6	1.7
Commodities less food and beverages .....	132.9	133.0	135.2	3.0	1.7	1.7
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	142.2	142.7	146.3	6.1	2.9	2.5
Durables .....	117.8	117.4	117.7	-1.8	-.1	.3
Services .....	227.0	230.1	230.6	3.6	1.6	.2
<b><u>Special aggregate indexes</u></b>						
All items less medical care .....	188.1	189.6	191.1	3.3	1.6	.8
All items less shelter .....	174.5	174.6	176.8	3.0	1.3	1.3
Commodities less food .....	135.6	135.8	138.0	3.1	1.8	1.6
Nondurables .....	163.5	163.3	166.8	4.0	2.0	2.1
Nondurables less food .....	145.7	146.2	149.7	5.9	2.7	2.4
Services less rent of shelter <u>2</u> / .....	219.6	220.5	221.8	3.5	1.0	.6
Services less medical care services .....	220.9	224.0	224.6	3.7	1.7	.3
Energy .....	121.4	124.6	131.3	23.1	8.2	5.4
All items less energy .....	201.3	202.7	203.7	2.3	1.2	.5
All items less food and energy .....	206.5	208.4	208.9	2.3	1.2	.2

1/ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2/ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

3/ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

4/ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

5/ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.